

TRIBUTE TO THE CURIOUS KIDS' MUSEUM OF ST. JOSEPH, MICHIGAN

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Curious Kids' Museum of St. Joseph, Michigan, which will celebrate its 1,000,000th visitor this year, as well as its 15th anniversary. This great educational museum is a treasure for the children of southwest Michigan, and I am very proud of the wonderful work it has accomplished over the years.

The Curious Kids' Museum began in 1987 as an idea shared by several local residents interested in alternative approaches to science education. Today it has over 100 hands-on educational exhibits and programs dedicated to stimulating the curiosity of children. The great many visitors of all ages that have had the fortunate opportunity to visit this museum have explored and gained awareness in the areas of science and technology, history, culture, and human perception.

The goal of the Museum's founders' was to establish a place where "children and families pursue their natural curiosity about the world through exploration and hands-on interactive exhibits, making learning fun and increasing self-esteem." I for one would like to say, and I know I am not alone, mission accomplished and surpassed. It pleases me to honor this great museum, and I know the next million visitors will be just as moved and inspired as the first.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOUSE COMMISSION FOR ASSISTING DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENTS RESOLUTION

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2004

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on February 26, my colleagues DOUG BEREUTER, DAVID DREIER, MARTIN FROST and I introduced H. Res. 543, a resolution establishing a House Commission For Assisting Democratic Parliaments.

This resolution would provide for the establishment of a commission in the House of Representatives to assist parliaments in emerging democracies. The legislative branches of governments of emerging democracies are largely comprised of new legislators who face the challenges of creating new democratic systems without the benefit of previous legislative experience. The legislatures of these fledgling democracies often lack the training, equipment, and resources they need to carry out their work effectively. For democracies to mature and to withstand cyclical turnover in government, strong government institutions—particularly national legislatures with appropriate infrastructure—are critical.

From 1990 through 1996, the House of Representatives, through a task force ably led by our colleagues MARTIN FROST and the late Gerald Solomon, provided equipment, tech-

nical assistance, orientation, and training to new parliaments in Central and Eastern European countries, including Albania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia in an effort to develop and strengthen those institutions. The program was designed to improve the efficiency of parliaments and the professionalism of its members and staff, as well as to increase transparency and accountability. The "Frost-Solomon Task Force" not only served the United States foreign policy goal of helping to establish democratic institutions in other countries, but also developed significant goodwill in the countries in which it was implemented. As one who participated in the Task Force, I found our work immensely rewarding and was struck by the ways the parliamentary leaders we worked with looked to the U.S. Congress for inspiration.

Since its founding, the United States has championed the development of democracy around the world. This goal continues to be in the national interests of the United States. The House Commission For Assisting Democratic Parliaments would help emerging parliaments function effectively and responsibly, and would enable this body to champion democracy and representative government in a tangible way.

I invite my colleagues to join us in carrying on the work begun by the Frost-Solomon Task Force by cosponsoring the House Commission For Assisting Democratic Parliaments Resolution, H. Res. 543.

TRIBUTE TO JIM LUNN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise before you today to honor the lifetime achievements of a man from my district. For over thirty years, Jim Lunn, of Pueblo, Colorado has dedicated his life toward educating young musicians. Jim has been an outstanding teacher, and for his service, has recently been inducted into the Colorado Music Educators Hall of Fame. I would like to ask my colleagues in Congress to please join me in recognizing him here today.

Jim was nominated for this prestigious award by several of his colleagues, who recognized his dedication to helping children learn and appreciate music. Jim also volunteers his time to grade schools, choral concerts, local theaters and his church. Jim's love of music and his willingness to share his passion for it has been a blessing for his community.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to rise before this body of Congress to pay tribute to the life-long achievements and dedication of Jim Lunn. For almost forty years, Jim has devoted his life to fostering children's interest in music. Jim now joins his wife as a recipient of the award and they are only the second couple in Colorado to win this high honor. It is my privilege to offer my congratulations and gratitude to Jim for his continuing efforts to bring music appreciation to the Pueblo community and the State of Colorado.

CONGRATULATING MS. DIXIE TAYLOR-HUFF UPON HER RECEIPT OF THE AHCA JOE WARNER PATIENT ADVOCACY AWARD

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2004

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Dixie Taylor-Huff, for her years of selfless service and dedication to the health and welfare of all Tennesseans. Dixie, who hails from Lebanon, is the honored recipient today of the American Health Care Association's Joe Warner Patient Advocacy Award. This award recognizes civic leaders who have shown exceptional dedication to the welfare of elderly and disabled Americans and who have been especially successful in raising awareness of such issues among local, state, and federal policymakers. We are all grateful to Dixie for her outstanding efforts and applaud her national recognition.

Dixie's leadership in the healthcare field and beyond has benefited countless lives in our great state. As the owner and operator of several skilled nursing facilities and home healthcare agencies, Dixie has long been a leader in the field of long-term health care. Her expertise has led several governors to seek her counsel by appointing her to various commissions and task forces dedicated to these issues. As the former president of the Tennessee Healthcare Association, and as a regional vice-president of the American Health Care Association, she has been a passionate and effective advocate for State and Federal policies to improve the quality of long-term care.

In addition to her work in health care, Dixie has served as a prominent civic leader in our district. As a trustee for both Cumberland University and Volunteer State Community College, she has been a vocal proponent of affordable high-quality public education. She is now the immediate past-president of the Nashville Women's Political Caucus and is treasurer of the Tennessee Democratic Party. I know that our colleagues in Tennessee value her greatly, and it is with the deepest respect and pride that I, on behalf of the people of the 5th District of Tennessee, seek to recognize this remarkable citizen.

Dixie, thank you again for your contributions to our great State and congratulations.

IN MEMORY OF SUSAN EATON

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2004

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sadness on the tragic early death of Susan Eaton, a wonderful woman who had recently become a noted professor at Harvard University's Kennedy School, but had also spent many years as an effective advocate for the rights of workers, particularly low-paid workers, throughout this country. Susan died of complications from leukemia on December 30, at the age of 46. Susan was also the wife of another remarkable person—my friend, Marshall Ganz—who worked with Cesar Chavez 39 years ago to help create the United